



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

MAY 2025

03 July 2025  
Version 1.0

Note: Data presented are latest available and can change from data previously published due to ongoing validation

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# Headline Data – May 2025

## Child Protection & Welfare

- **9,548 referrals** in May 2025, 968 (11%) more than April 2025 (8,580) and 414 (5%) more than May 2024 (9,134). Brings to 43,684 the number of referrals for the first five months of 2025, 2,494 (6%) more than the same period in 2024 (41,190).
- **23,295 cases open to social work** at the end of May 2025, 378 (2%) more than April 2025 (22,917) and 1,318 (6%) more than May 2024 (21,977). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **80% (18,661) of cases** open to social work at the end of May 2025 had an **allocated case worker**. Of these, 80% (14,959) were allocated to a social worker and 20% (3,702) were allocated to a another professional. (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,634 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of May 2025, four more than April 2025 (4,630) and 359 (7%) fewer than May 2024 (4,993). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Four areas account for 64% (2,984) of cases awaiting allocation: Cork (991), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (910), Dublin South Central (652) and Midlands (431).
- **5% (232) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of May 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 38 (20%) more than April 2025 (194) and the first increase after four consecutive decreases.

## Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **35 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in May 2025. This brings to 215 the number of referrals assigned for the first five months of 2025, 43 (17%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (258).
- **96% (453 / 472) of assessments open at the end of May 2025** were allocated to a social worker, up three percentage points from April 2025 (93%) and up 28 percentage points from May 2024 (68%). Remaining 4% (19) were awaiting allocation with 16 (46%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 than at the end of April 2025 (35).
- 200 (91%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024 (219).

## Children in Care

- **5,761 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of May 2025**, 20 fewer than April 2025 (5,781) and 35 (<1%) fewer than May 2024 (5,796). *Figure includes 84 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).*
- 87.4% (5,034) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,565 general foster care, and 1,469 relative foster), 9.3% (535) are in residential care (520 general residential care and 15 special care) and 3.3% (192) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **88.4% (5,016/5,677) of children in care are in foster care.**

## Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,039 (18%) children in care at the end of May 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 14 (1%) fewer than April 2025 (1,053) and 108 (12%) more than May 2024 (931).
- **98% (5,634) of children in care at the end of May 2025 had an allocated worker**. Of the 5,634 children allocated, 89% (5,005) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (629) were allocated to another professional.

## Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,033 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of May 2025, 12 (1%) fewer than April 2025 (1,045), second consecutive decrease.
- There were 7 (<1%) more children ‘active’ at the end of May 2025 than at the end May 2024 (1,026).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 98% (1,012) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 21 children were awaiting allocation across three areas of which 10 were subsequently allocated.

## Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,963 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of May 2025**, 10 fewer than April 2025 (3,973 revised figure) and 88 (2%) fewer than May 2024 (4,051).
- **225 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in May 2025. This brings to 1,052 the number of inspections for the first five months of 2025, 71 (7%) more than the same period in 2024 (981).
- **2,439 children on the register** for home education at the end of May 2025, 17 (<1%) more than April 2025 (2,422) and 114 (5%) more than Dec 2024 (2,325). Increasing trend continues.
- **355 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of May 2025**, 55 (13%) fewer than April 2025 (410) and 571 (62%) fewer than May 2024 (926). Decreasing trend continues.

## Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,452 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in May 2025. This brings to 8,659 the number of referrals for the first nine months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 1,212 (16%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,447).
- **4,884 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of May 2025, six fewer than April 2025 (4,890).
- 1,076 (28%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024 (3,808).

# Child Protection and Welfare

## Referrals<sup>1</sup>

- **9,548 referrals** in May 2025, 968 (11%) more than April 2025 (8,580) and 414 (5%) more than May 2024 (9,134).
- This brings to 43,684 the number of referrals for the first five months of 2025, 2,494 (6%) more than the same period in 2024 (41,190).

*It should be noted that the data presented for 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for 2025 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.*

## Open Cases

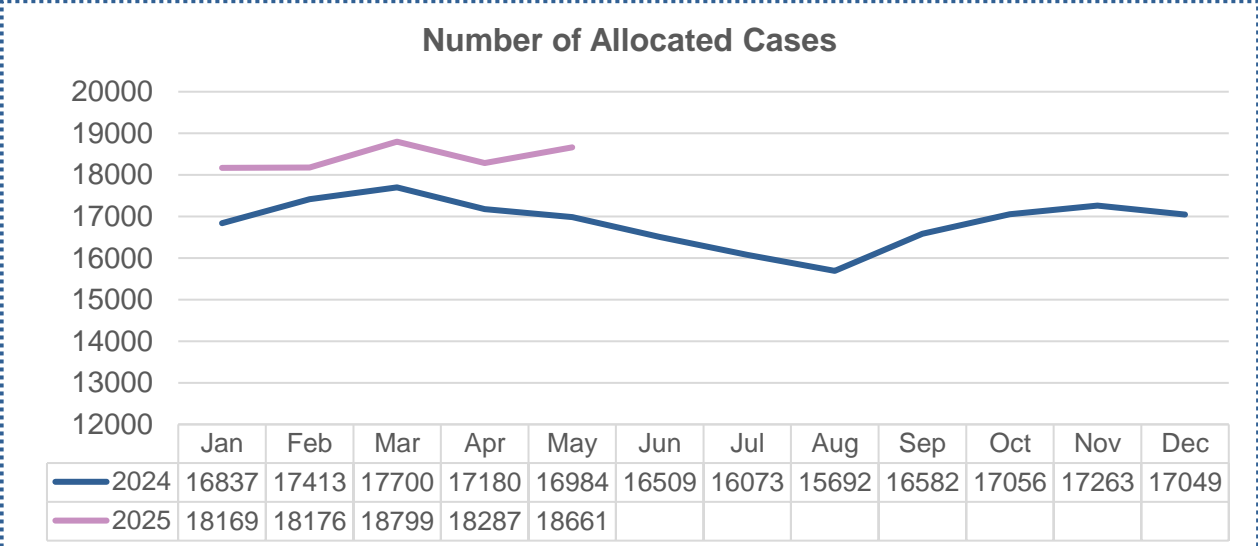
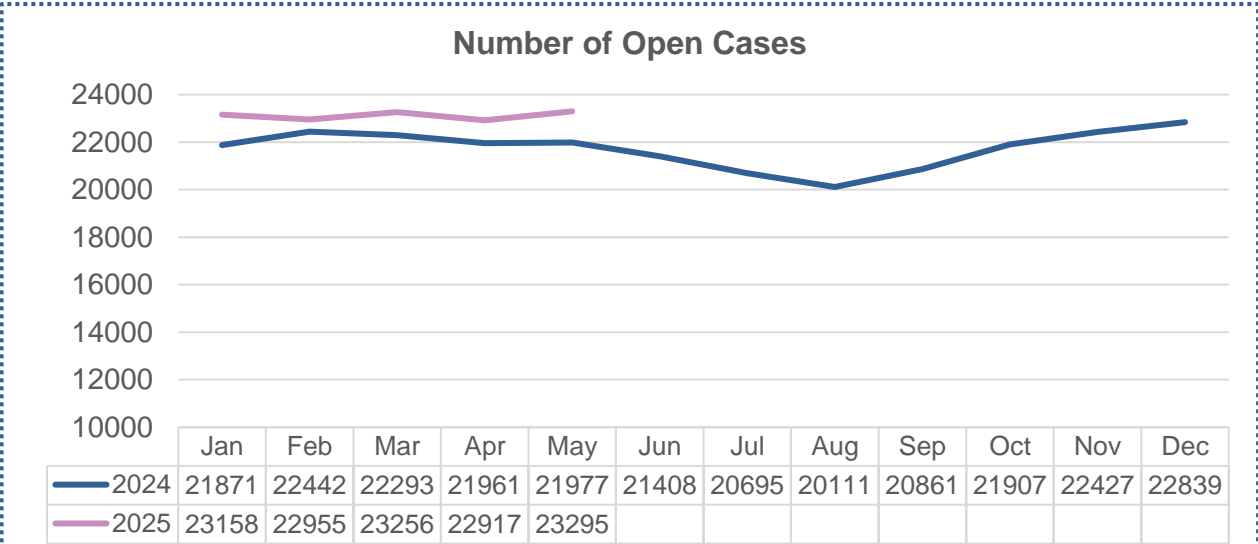
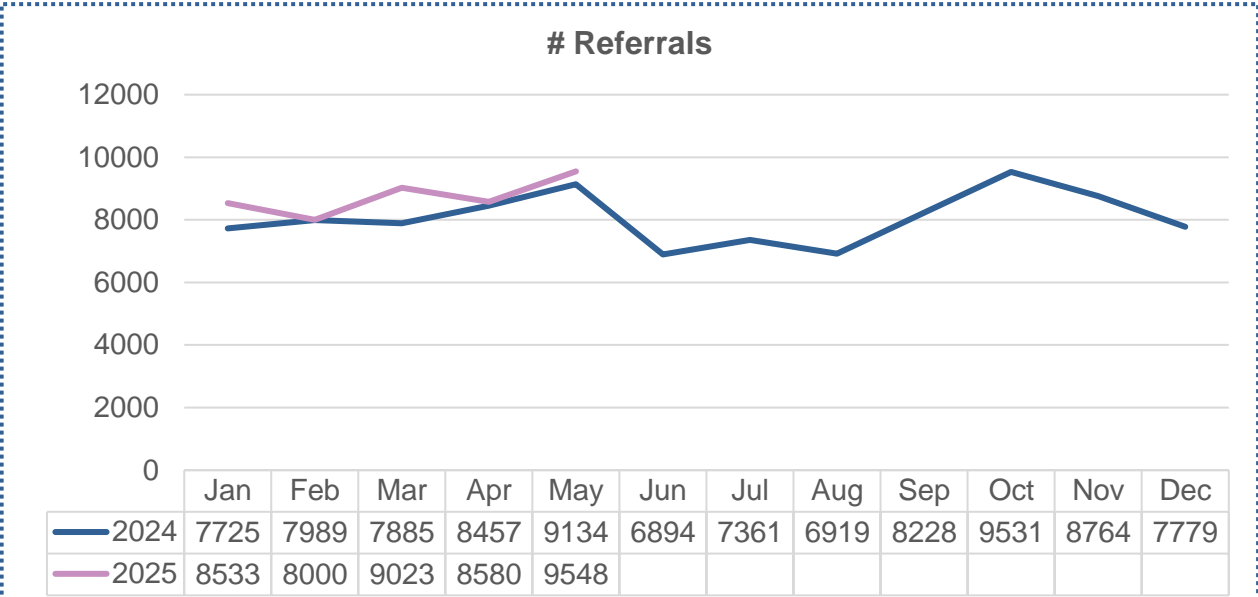
- **23,295 cases open to social work** at the end of May 2025, 378 (2%) more than April 2025 (22,917) and 1,318 (6%) more than May 2024 (21,977).
- 1) Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.
  - 2) The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.

## Allocated Cases

- **18,661 open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of May 2025, 374 (2%) more than April 2025 (18,287) and 1,677 (10%) more than May 2024 (16,984).
- Allocated cases account for 80% of open cases.

*Reflecting an ongoing changing environment and significant social work vacancies, Tusla has moved to a more multi-disciplinary way of working with children now allocated to social workers and other professional grades where necessary and appropriate to ensure they have the support of a key worker. All children continue to be overseen by social work management.*

<sup>1</sup> Referrals include referrals meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services, multiple reports of the same concern and referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services. Referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare include: a request for diversion to another agency; a report in which there are no reasonable grounds for concern or no harm identified to a child indicated; a report that does not warrant a Tusla child protection and welfare led intervention (these could be children who need additional supports to stop problems or difficulties worsening but social work led intervention is not required and diversion to Prevention Partnership and Family Support is considered).



# Child Protection and Welfare

## Allocated Cases

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from January 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc..

- Of the cases allocated (18,661) at the end of May 2025, 80% (14,959) were allocated to a social worker and 20% (3,702) were allocated to a another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, May 2025			
Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	629	192	821
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	875	528	1,403
Dublin South Central	818	354	1,172
Midlands	1,202	244	1,446
Dublin North City	1,423	337	1,760
Dublin North	1,488	238	1,726
Louth/Meath	1,022	405	1,427
Cavan/Monaghan	513	183	696
Kerry	311	101	412
Cork	1,860	165	2,025
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	434	264	698
Waterford/Wexford	930	223	1,153
Donegal	589	78	667
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	315	23	338
Mayo	343	18	361
Galway/Roscommon	1,168	59	1,227
Midwest	1,039	290	1,329
Total	14,959	3,702	18,661

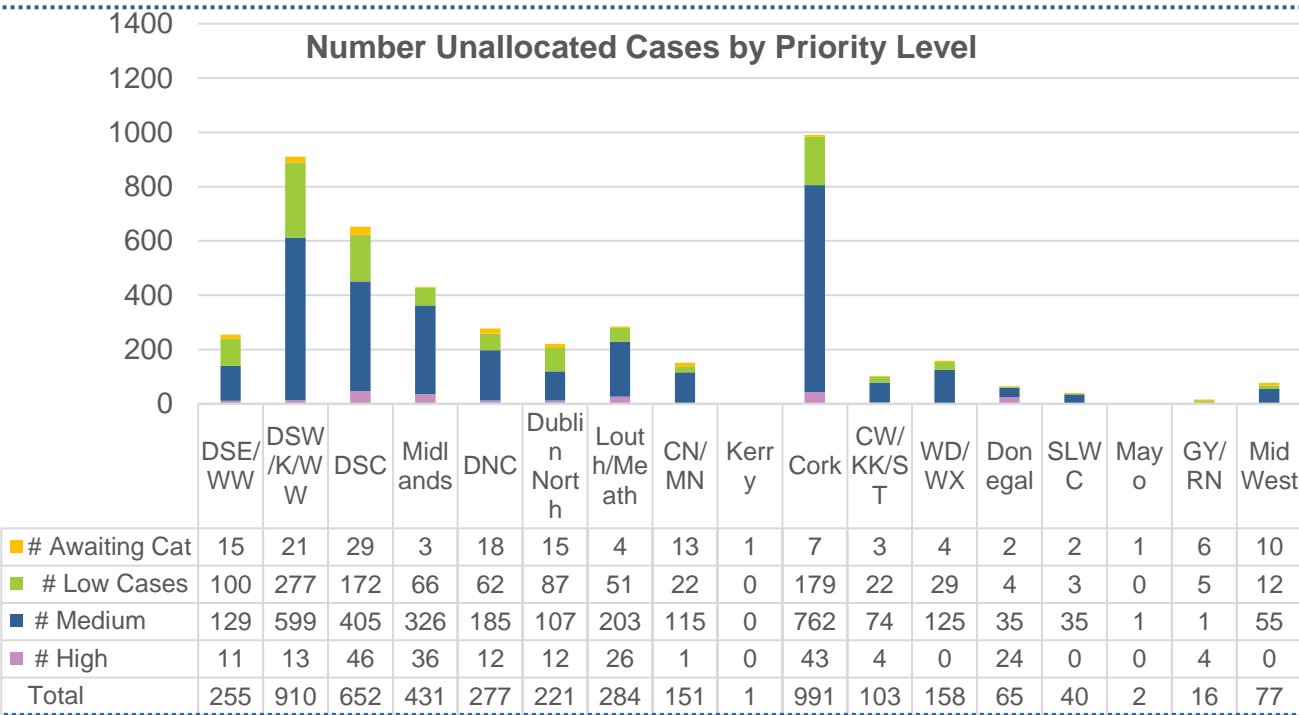
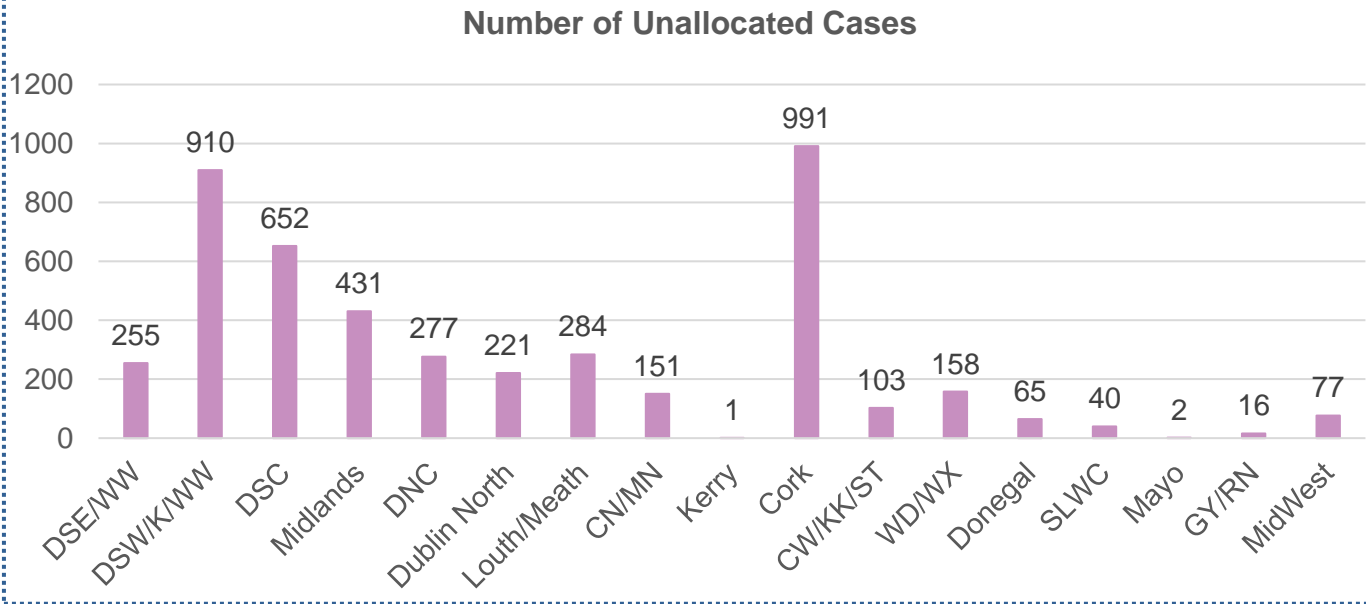
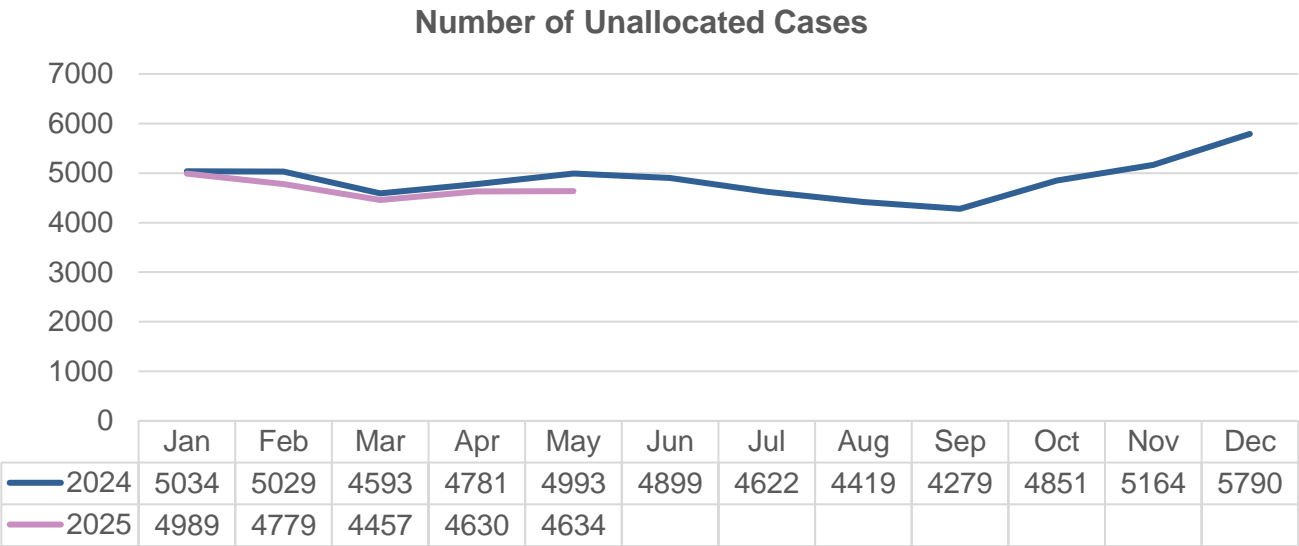
Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, May 2025			
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	77%	23%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	62%	38%	100%
Dublin South Central	70%	30%	100%
Midlands	83%	17%	100%
Dublin North City	81%	19%	100%
Dublin North	86%	14%	100%
Louth/Meath	72%	28%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	74%	26%	100%
Kerry	75%	25%	100%
Cork	92%	8%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	62%	38%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	81%	19%	100%
Donegal	88%	12%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	93%	7%	100%
Mayo	95%	5%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	95%	5%	100%
Midwest	78%	22%	100%
Total	80%	20%	100%

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

- **4,634 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of May 2025, four more than April 2025 (4,630) and 359 (7%) fewer than May 2024 (4,993). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 20% of open cases (23,295), no change from April 2025.
- **55% (2,529) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 were “active on duty”**. *This means that actions were undertaken by dedicated duty teams or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the cases. Examples of actions undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans.*
- Highest number of cases awaiting allocation reported by Cork (991) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (910), Dublin South Central (652) and Midlands (431). These four areas account for 64% (2,984) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **232 cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 38 (20%) more than April 2025 (194) and the first increase after four consecutive decreases.
- High priority cases account for 5% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 68% (3,157) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 24% (1,091) were low priority while the remaining 3% (154) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Dublin South Central (46), Cork (43), Midlands (36), Louth/Meath (26) and Donegal (24). These five areas account for 75% (175) of all high priority cases awaiting.





# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 8 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from April 2025.
- Largest decreases reported by Midlands (down 214) and Louth/Meath (down 144).
- 8 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from April 2025.
- Largest increases reported by Cork (up 193) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 85).
- The remaining area (Mayo) reported no change.

- Nationally 20% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 20%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (39%), Dublin South Central (36%), Cork (33%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (24%) and Midlands (23%).
- 10 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 544), Midwest (down 267), Donegal (down 194) and Louth/Meath (down 191). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- 7 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 538), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 487) and Midlands (up 183).

Area	May-24 # Unallocated	May-24 % Unallocated	Mar-25 # Unallocated	Apr-25 # Unallocated	May-25 # Unallocated	May-25 % Unallocated	Mar-May	May-25 v May-24	% Δ	May-25 v Apr-25	% Δ1
DSE/WW	350	33%	282	235	255	24%		-95	-27%	20	9%
DSW/K/WW	423	28%	881	825	910	39%		487	115%	85	10%
DSC	1,196	49%	601	610	652	36%		-544	-45%	42	7%
Midlands	248	14%	555	645	431	23%		183	74%	-214	-33%
DNC	209	13%	217	237	277	14%		68	33%	40	17%
Dublin North	194	10%	171	196	221	11%		27	14%	25	13%
Louth/Meath	475	28%	562	428	284	17%		-191	-40%	-144	-34%
CN/MN	122	15%	113	152	151	18%		29	24%	-1	-1%
Kerry	34	8%	13	10	1	0%		-33	-97%	-9	-90%
Cork	453	19%	562	798	991	33%		538	119%	193	24%
CW/KK/ST	233	32%	133	105	103	13%		-130	-56%	-2	-2%
WD/WX	325	23%	199	196	158	12%		-167	-51%	-38	-19%
Donegal	259	29%	49	85	65	9%		-194	-75%	-20	-24%
SLWC	18	6%	17	14	40	11%		22	122%	26	186%
Mayo	25	7%	1	2	2	1%		-23	-92%	0	0%
GY/RN	85	6%	4	4	16	1%		-69	-81%	12	300%
MidWest	344	25%	97	88	77	5%		-267	-78%	-11	-13%
TOTAL	4993	23%	4457	4630	4634	20%		-359	-7%	4	0%

Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Summary Tables

Referrals				Open Cases			Allocated Cases			Unallocated Cases		
Area	Apr-25	May-25	Δ	Apr-25	May-25	Δ2	Apr-25	May-25	Δ3	Apr-25	May-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	379	417	38	1,048	1,076	28	813	821	8	235	255	20
DSW/K/WW	866	983	117	2,125	2,313	188	1,300	1,403	103	825	910	85
DSC	601	629	28	1,835	1,824	-11	1,225	1,172	-53	610	652	42
Midlands	876	982	106	2,056	1,877	-179	1,411	1,446	35	645	431	-214
DNC	560	596	36	1,950	2,037	87	1,713	1,760	47	237	277	40
Dublin North	816	868	52	1,886	1,947	61	1,690	1,726	36	196	221	25
Louth/Meath	685	664	-21	1,826	1,711	-115	1,398	1,427	29	428	284	-144
CN/MN	273	346	73	843	847	4	691	696	5	152	151	-1
Kerry	152	246	94	406	413	7	396	412	16	10	1	-9
Cork	860	927	67	2,811	3,016	205	2,013	2,025	12	798	991	193
CW/KK/ST	404	463	59	883	801	-82	778	698	-80	105	103	-2
WD/WX	587	685	98	1,351	1,311	-40	1,155	1,153	-2	196	158	-38
Donegal	245	232	-13	702	732	30	617	667	50	85	65	-20
SLWC	139	160	21	331	378	47	317	338	21	14	40	26
Mayo	141	114	-27	369	363	-6	367	361	-6	2	2	0
GY/RN	375	496	121	1,124	1,243	119	1,120	1,227	107	4	16	12
MidWest	621	740	119	1,371	1,406	35	1,283	1,329	46	88	77	-11
Total	8,580	9,548	968	22,917	23,295	378	18,287	18,661	374	4,630	4,634	4

High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting		
Area	Apr-25	May-25	Δ	Apr-25	May-25	Δ 2	Apr-25	May-25	Δ 3	Apr-25	May-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	11	11	0	117	129	12	89	100	11	18	15	-3
DSW/K/WW	4	13	9	527	599	72	285	277	-8	9	21	12
DSC	48	46	-2	344	405	61	193	172	-21	25	29	4
Midlands	31	36	5	465	326	-139	147	66	-81	2	3	1
DNC	5	12	7	174	185	11	44	62	18	14	18	4
Dublin North	13	12	-1	122	107	-15	44	87	43	17	15	-2
Louth/Meath	24	26	2	272	203	-69	128	51	-77	4	4	0
CN/MN	0	1	1	126	115	-11	23	22	-1	3	13	10
Kerry	0	0	0	2	0	-2	8	0	-8	0	1	1
Cork	17	43	26	626	762	136	146	179	33	9	7	-2
CW/KK/ST	1	4	3	78	74	-4	16	22	6	10	3	-7
WD/WX	3	0	-3	114	125	11	75	29	-46	4	4	0
Donegal	35	24	-11	49	35	-14	0	4	4	1	2	1
SLWC	0	0	0	10	35	25	3	3	0	1	2	1
Mayo	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
GY/RN	2	4	2	1	1	0	1	5	4	0	6	6
MidWest	0	0	0	81	55	-26	3	12	9	4	10	6
TOTAL	194	232	38	3,109	3,157	48	1,205	1,091	-114	122	154	32

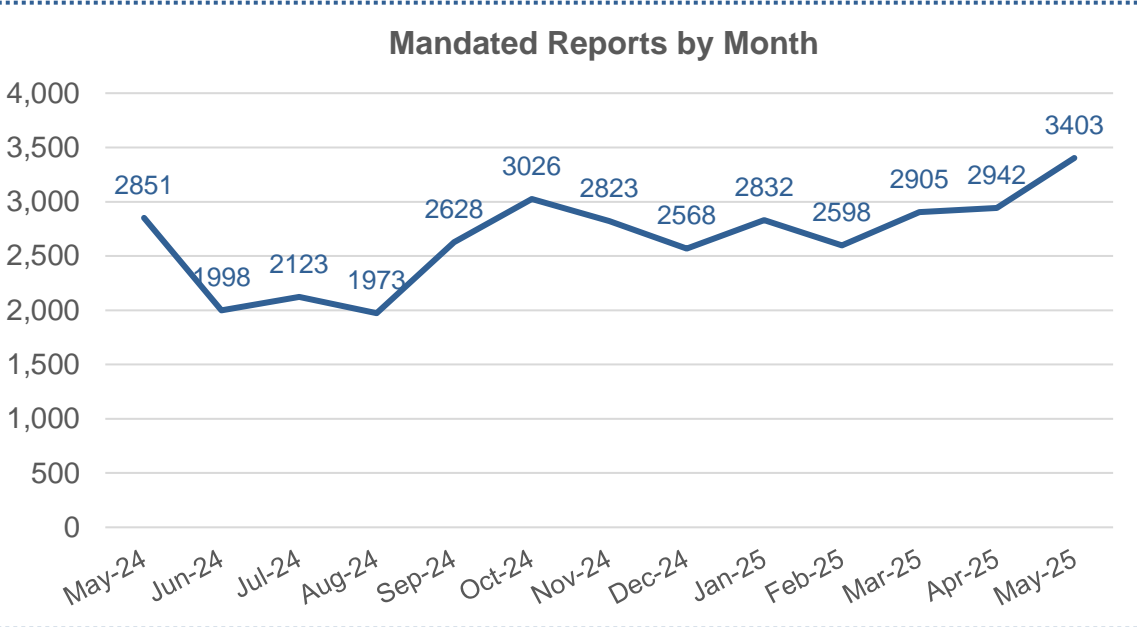


# Mandated Reports<sup>1</sup> – Child Protection & Welfare

- **3,403 mandated reports of abuse** received in May 2025. This brings to 14,680 the number of reports for the first five months of 2025, 1,179 (9%) more than the same period in 2024 (13,501).

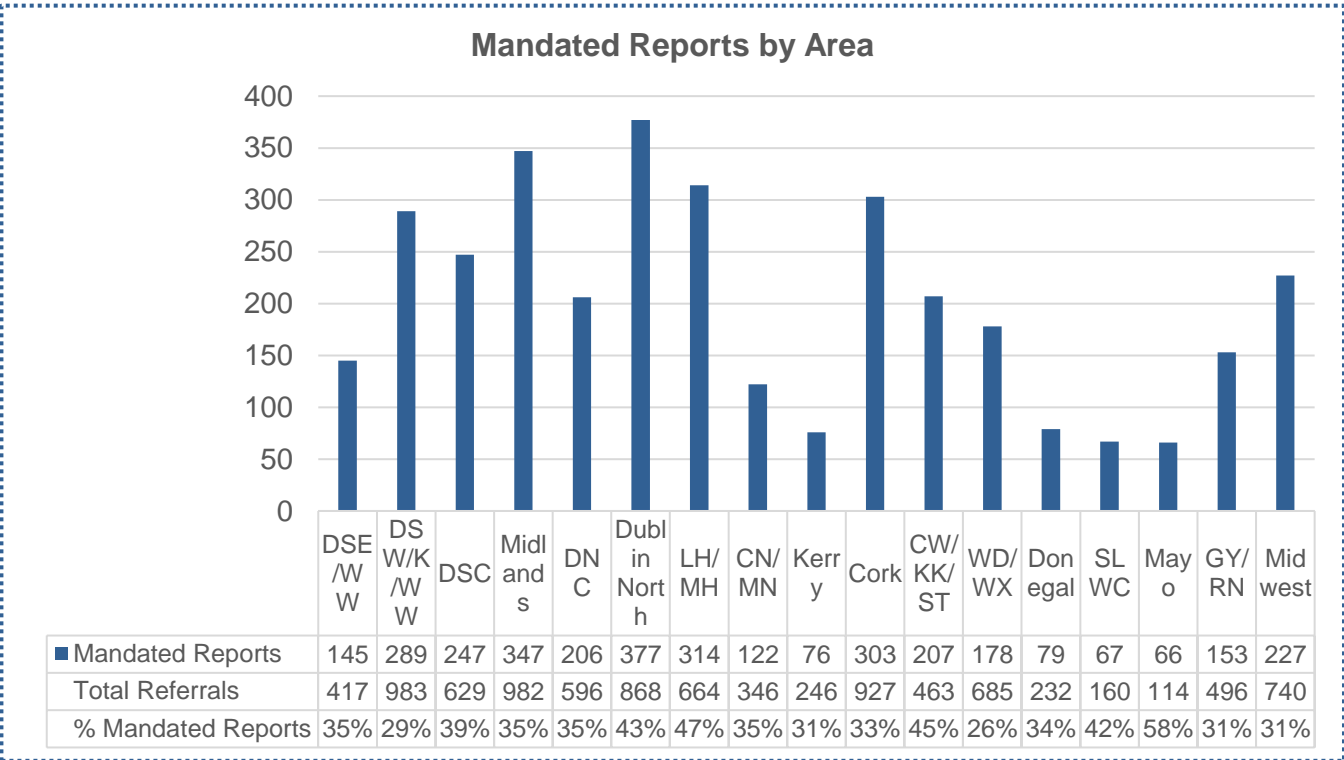
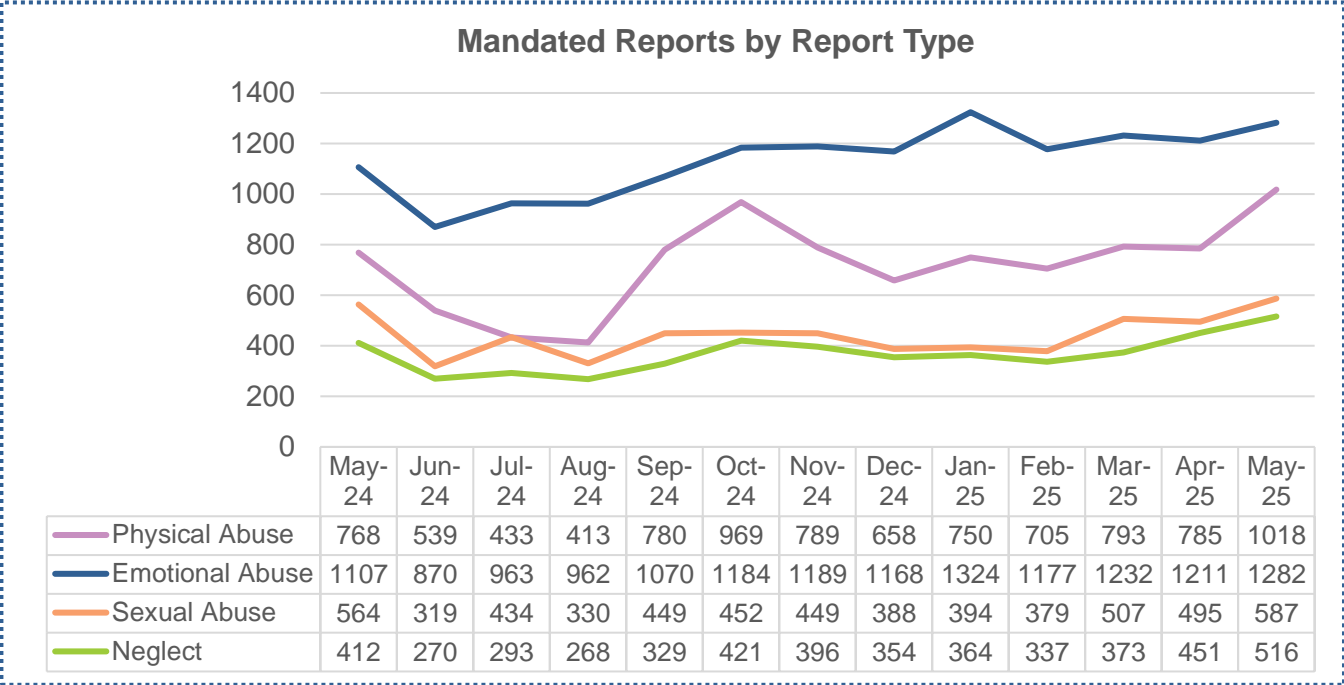
*It should be noted that the data presented for 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for 2025 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.*

- Mandated reports accounted for 36% (3,403) of all referrals received (9,548) in May 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for May 2025, by area ranged from 66 (Mayo) to 377 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (58%) was reported by Mayo
- The lowest percentage (26%) was reported by Waterford/Wexford.

- Highest number of reports for May 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,282; 38%) followed by physical abuse (1,018; 30%), sexual abuse (587; 17%) and neglect (516; 15%).



<sup>1</sup> Mandated reports are included in the data on referrals (slide 4)

# Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare

## Source of Reports

- Highest number of reports for May 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,126; 33.1%) followed by teachers (592; 17.4%), safeguarding officer (439; 12.9%); social workers (318; 9.3%) and social care workers (202; 5.9%). These five sources account for 79% (2,677) of reports for May 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 YTD from An Garda Síochána (5,531; 37.7%) followed by teachers (2,404; 16.4%), safeguarding officer (1,746; 11.9%); social workers (1,388; 9.5%) and social care workers (767; 5.2%). These five sources account for 81% (11,836) of reports for received for the first five months of 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# May-25	% Total	# 2025 YTD	% Total
An Garda Síochána Member	1,126	33.1%	5,531	37.7%
Teacher	592	17.4%	2,404	16.4%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	439	12.9%	1,746	11.9%
Social worker	318	9.3%	1,388	9.5%
Social care worker	202	5.9%	767	5.2%
Medical practitioner (Registered)	119	3.5%	453	3.1%
Domestic violence shelter manager	113	3.3%	449	3.1%
Psychologist	81	2.4%	369	2.5%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	82	2.4%	346	2.4%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	87	2.6%	301	2.1%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	51	1.5%	241	1.6%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	29	0.9%	110	0.7%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	38	1.1%	91	0.6%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	22	0.6%	74	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	19	0.6%	68	0.5%
Probation officer	14	0.4%	54	0.4%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	14	0.4%	51	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	8	0.2%	39	0.3%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	8	0.2%	37	0.3%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	35	0.2%
Pre-school service	16	0.5%	35	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	*	0.1%	22	0.1%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.1%	19	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	5	0.1%	17	0.1%
Not specified	8	0.2%	17	0.1%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.0%	5	<0.1%
Clergy member	*	0.0%	5	<0.1%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	0	0.0%	5	<0.1%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	*	<0.1%
Total	3,403	100.0%	14,680	100.0%

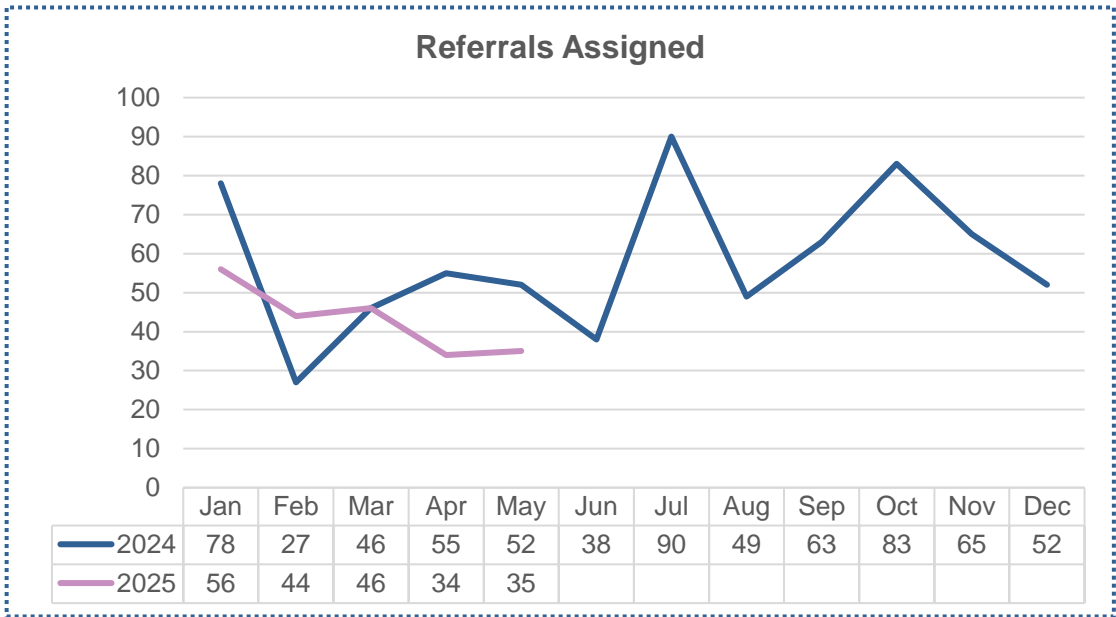
\*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes.

# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

It is Tusla’s statutory obligation and responsibility to promote the welfare of children under Section 3 of the Child Care Act 1991 and under Section 8 (1)(b) of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013. In meeting this obligation and responsibility, where there is a need to share information with a relevant third party to protect an identified child or yet to be identified child or children from harm, Tusla must carry out an assessment of allegations of child abuse in line with fair procedures. This is called a ‘substantiation assessment’ – an assessment that examines and weighs up all the evidence and decides if the allegation is founded or unfounded on the balance of probabilities. If the allegation is founded a determination is made that the person who is the subject of the abuse allegations poses a potential risk to a child or children. Tusla calls this process the CASP – Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure.

## Referrals

- **35 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in May 2025.
- This brings to 215 the number of referrals assigned for the first five months of 2025, 43 (17%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (258).

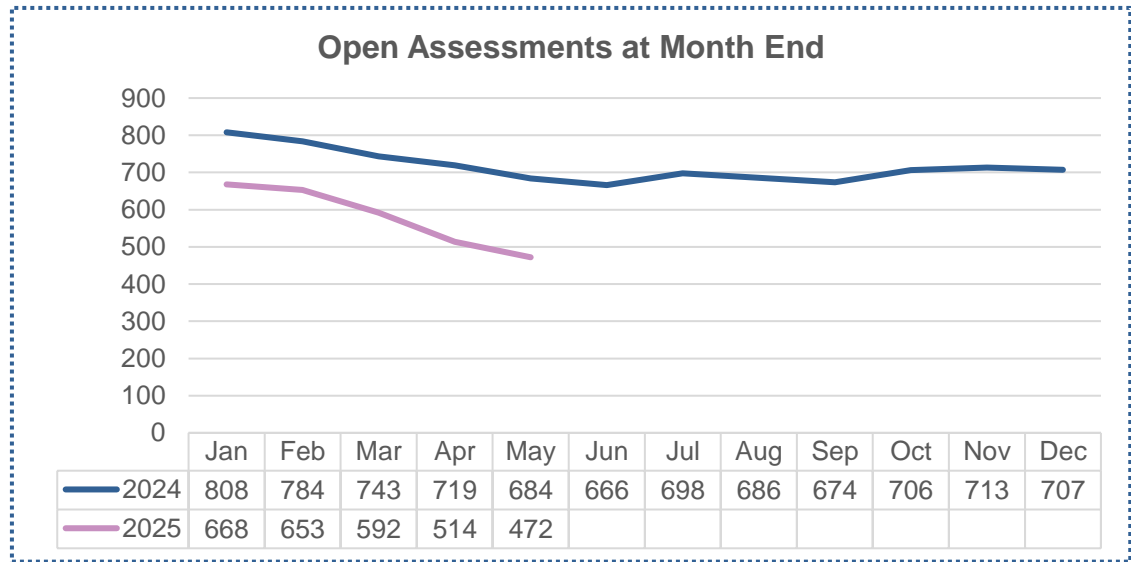
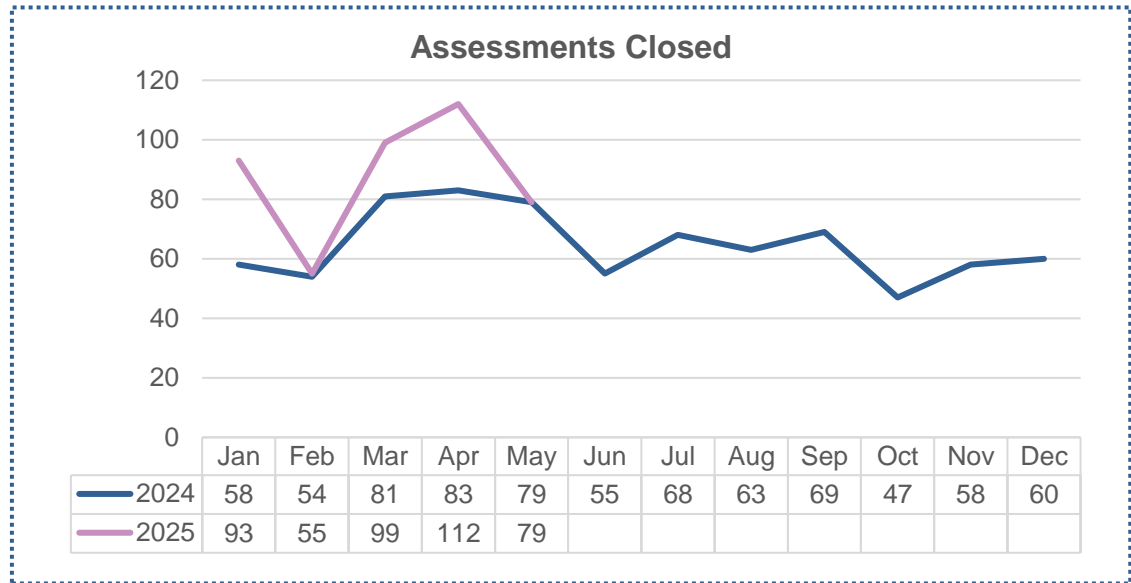


## Open Assessments

- **472 assessments open at the end of May 2025**, 42 (8%) fewer than April 2025 (514) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – May 2025.
- There were 212 (31%) fewer assessments open at the end of May 2025 than at the May 2024 (684).

## Assessments Closed

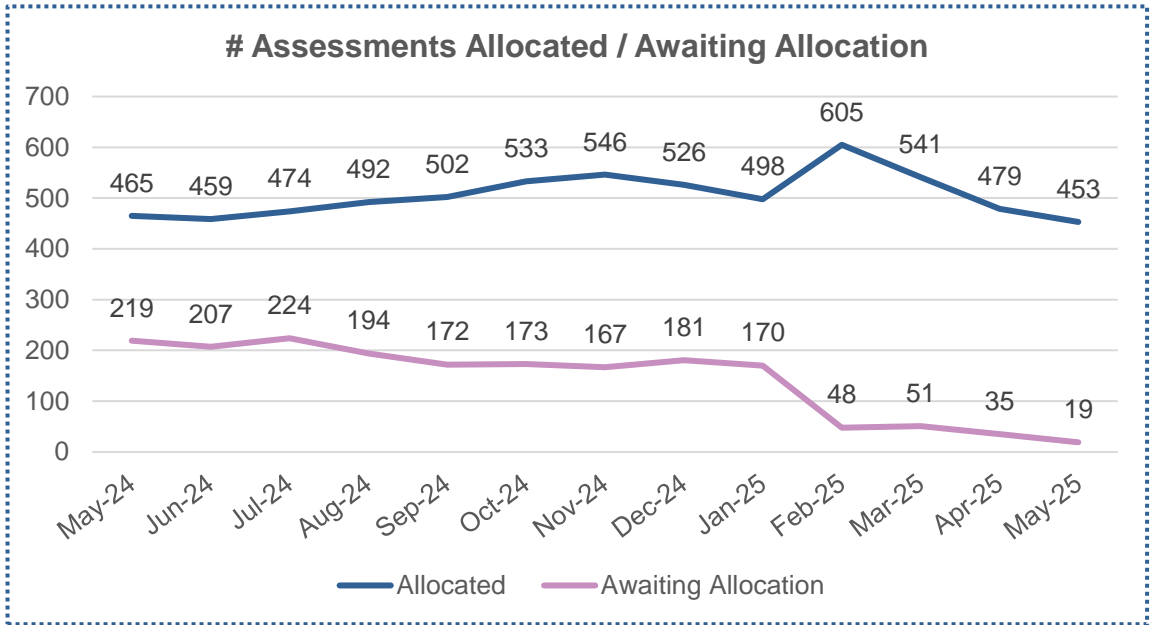
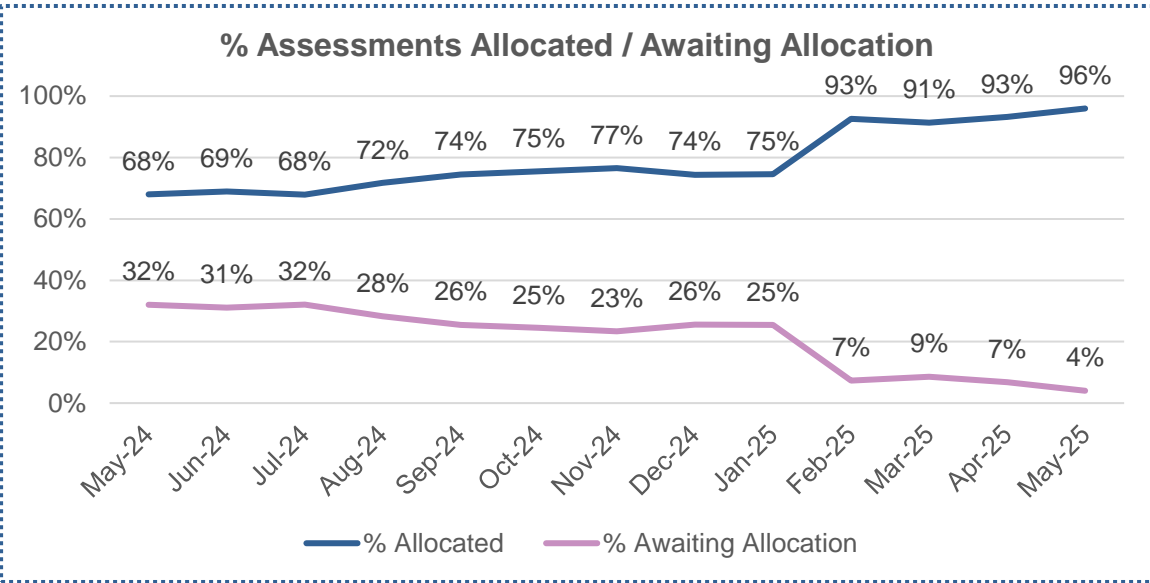
- **79 assessments closed** in May 2025.
- This brings to 438 the number of assessments closed for the first five months of 2025, 83 (23%) more than the same period in 2024 (355).



# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

## Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- **96% (453 / 472) of assessments open at the end of May 2025** were allocated to a social worker, up three percentage points from April 2025 (93%) and up 28 percentage points from May 2024 (68%).
- The remaining 4% (19) were awaiting allocation with 16 (46%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 than at the end of April 2025 (35).
- 200 (91%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024 (219).



# Children in Care

- **5,761 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of May 2025**, 20 fewer than April 2025 (5,781) and 35 (<1%) fewer than May 2024 (5,796). Figure includes 84 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)<sup>1</sup>.

- **Breakdown of children in care by Tusla’s 17 areas and SCSIP as follows:**

	May-24	Apr-25	May-25	May-25 v May-24	May-25 v Apr-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,654	5,675	<b>5,677</b>	+23	+2
SCSIP	142	106	<b>84</b>	-58	-22
Total	<b>5,796</b>	<b>5,781</b>	<b>5,761</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-20</b>

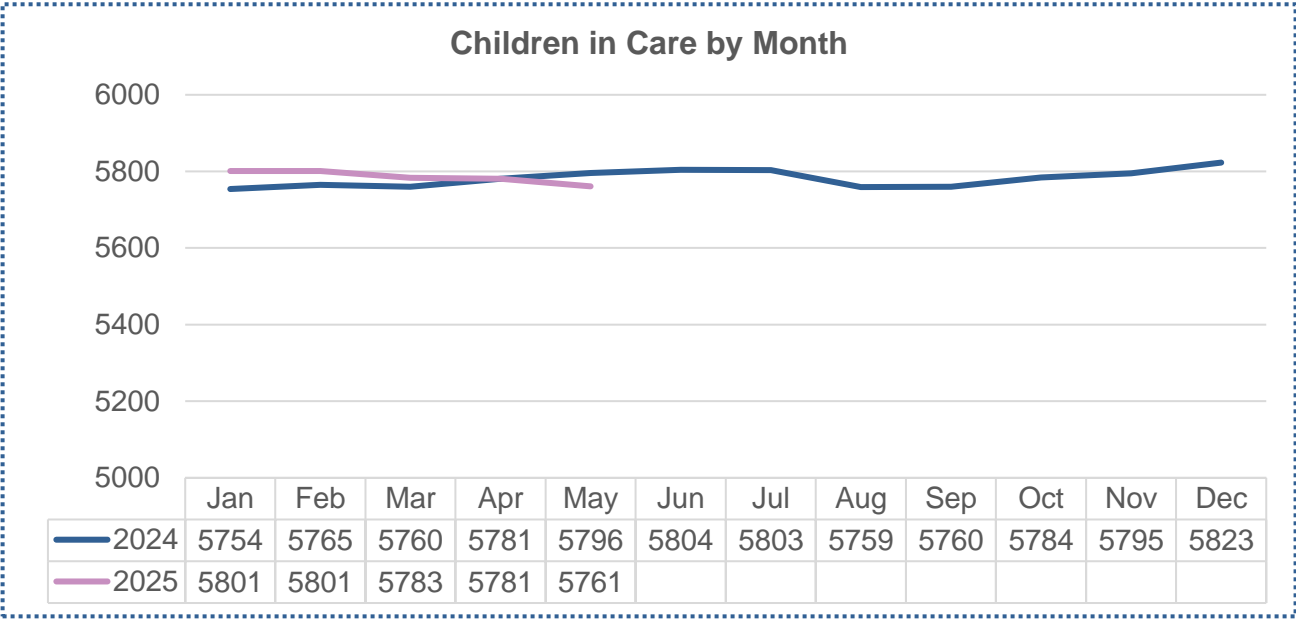
- **Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (May-25):**

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	471 (8.3%)	64 (76.2%)	<b>535 (9.3%)</b>
Foster Care	5016 (88.4%)	18 (21.4%)	<b>5,034 (87.4%)</b>
Other*	190 (3.3%)	2 (2.4%)	<b>192 (3.3%)</b>
Total	5,677 (100%)	84 (100%)	5,761 (100%)

- Residential care (535) includes 15 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,034), 71% (3,565) were in general foster care and 29% (1,469) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (650) followed by Midwest (495) and Dublin North City (471).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (84) and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (118).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.6) followed by Waterford/Wexford (5.9) and Donegal (5.8).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.9).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.

Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **405 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991**.
2. **\*Other care placements** includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings etc.



## Rate of children in care / 1,000 child population 0-17 years (ranked by rate/1,000)

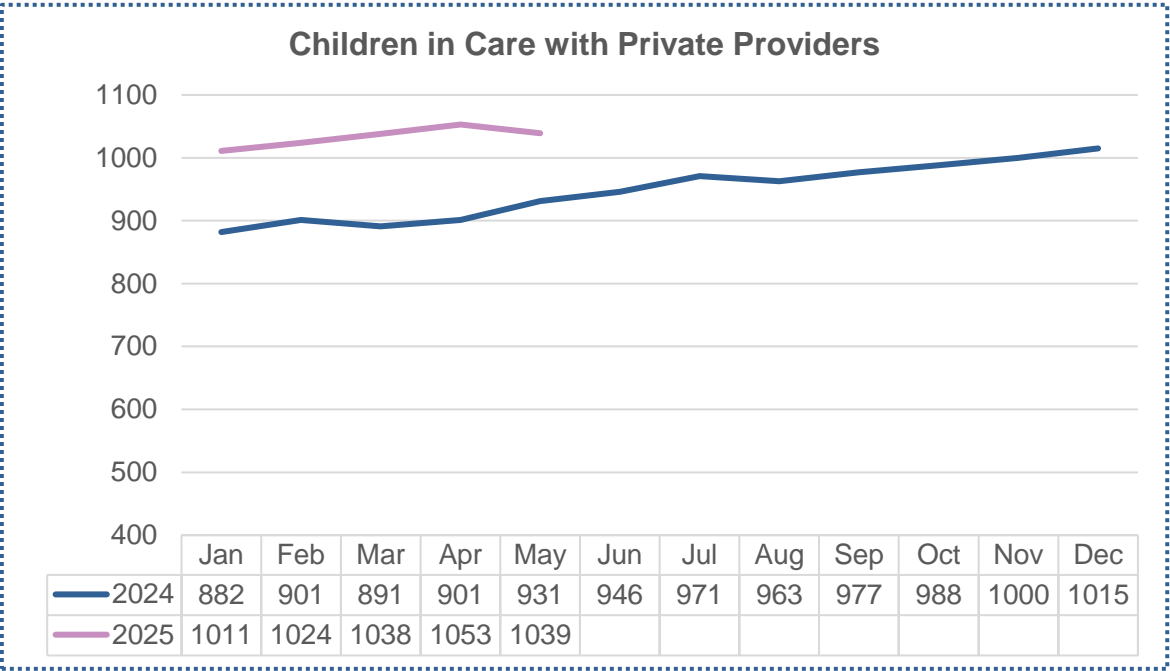
Area	May-24	Apr-25	May-25	May-25 v May-24	May-25 v Apr-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	474	471	<b>471</b>	-3	0	48,909	<b>9.6</b>
Waterford/Wexford	427	412	<b>411</b>	-16	-1	69,239	<b>5.9</b>
Donegal	216	242	<b>243</b>	27	1	42,144	<b>5.8</b>
Midwest	506	493	<b>495</b>	-11	2	96,764	<b>5.1</b>
CW/KK/ST	310	314	<b>308</b>	-2	-6	62,366	<b>4.9</b>
Kerry	164	173	<b>172</b>	8	-1	34,994	<b>4.9</b>
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	113	119	<b>118</b>	5	-1	24,312	<b>4.9</b>
Cork	682	657	<b>650</b>	-32	-7	136,786	<b>4.8</b>
Dublin South Central	331	331	<b>330</b>	-1	-1	70,259	<b>4.7</b>
Mayo	141	148	<b>148</b>	7	0	31,911	<b>4.6</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	164	162	<b>165</b>	1	3	37,336	<b>4.4</b>
Louth/Meath	423	423	<b>426</b>	3	3	96,531	<b>4.4</b>
Galway/Roscommon	351	348	<b>358</b>	7	10	81,799	<b>4.4</b>
Midlands	334	354	<b>346</b>	12	-8	80,962	<b>4.3</b>
Dublin North	410	418	<b>416</b>	6	-2	104,281	<b>4.0</b>
DSW/K/WW	398	410	<b>421</b>	23	11	108,927	<b>3.9</b>
Dublin South East/Wicklow	210	200	<b>199</b>	-11	-1	91,047	<b>2.2</b>
Total Areas	<b>5,654</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4.7</b>
SCSIP	142	106	84	-58	-22		
Total National	<b>5,796</b>	<b>5,781</b>	<b>5,761</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-20</b>		

Population: CSO Census 2022

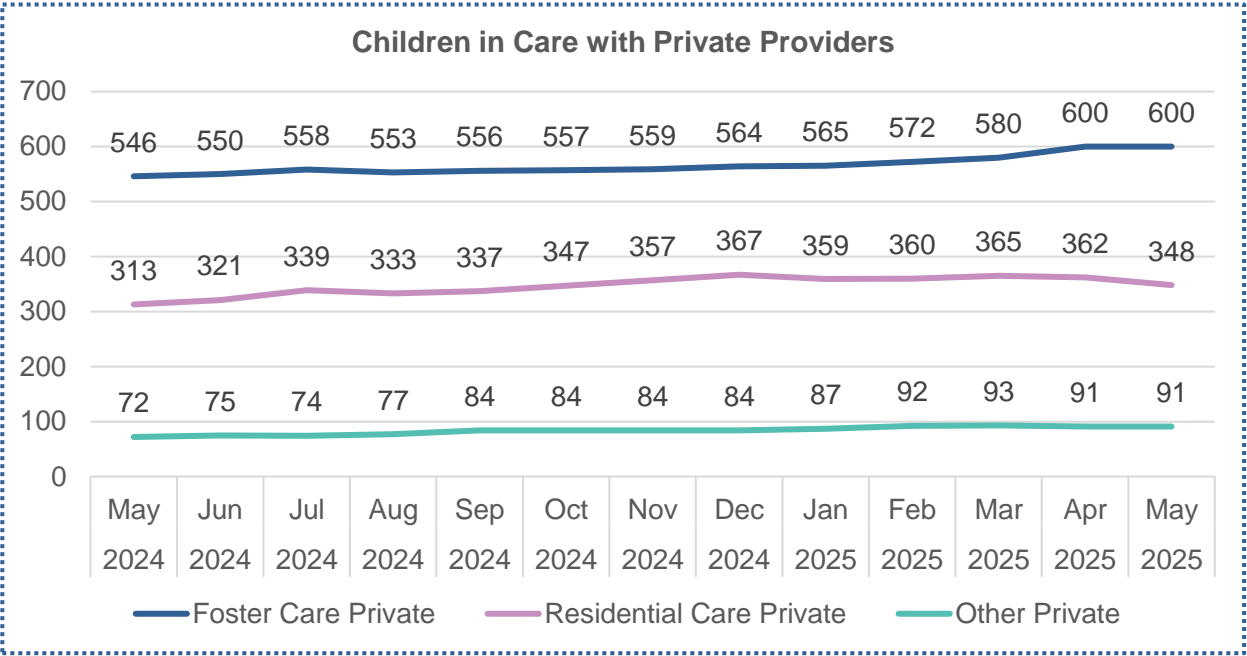
# Children in Care

## Private Providers

- 1,039 (18%) children in care at the end of May 2025 were in placements with private providers, 14 (1%) fewer than April 2025 (1,053) and 108 (12%) more than May 2024 (931).



- 600 (58%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care, no change from April 2024** and 54 (10%) more than May 2024 (546).
- 348 (33%) children were in **residential care**, 14 (4%) fewer than April 2025 (362) and 35 (11%) more than May 2024 (313).
- The remaining **91 (9%)** children were in **“Other” care placements**, no change from April 2025 and 19 (26%) more than May 2024 (72). *“Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.*
- Highest number of children in placements with private providers reported by Dublin North City (139) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (126), Dublin North (119), Dublin South Central (115) and Midlands (103). These five areas account for 58% (602) of children in placements with private providers.



### Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	May-24	Apr-25	May-25	May-25 v May-24	May-25 v Apr-25
Dublin North City	121	144	139	18	-5
DSW/K/WW	108	119	126	18	7
Dublin North	104	119	119	15	0
Dublin South Central	109	120	115	6	-5
Midlands	77	104	103	26	-1
Cork	59	62	62	3	0
SCSIP	58	70	55	-3	-15
Louth/Meath	49	51	51	2	0
Waterford/Wexford	47	51	51	4	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	47	46	-6	-1
Midwest	41	40	44	3	4
Kerry	32	33	34	2	1
Donegal	20	25	26	6	1
CW/KK/ST	21	26	25	4	-1
Galway/Roscommon	13	16	17	4	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	16	15	3	-1
Cavan/Monaghan	7	8	9	2	1
Mayo	1	2	2	1	0
Total	931	1,053	1,039	108	-14



# Children in Care

## Allocated Cases

Reflecting an ongoing changing environment and significant social work vacancies, Tusla has moved to a more multi-disciplinary way of working with children now allocated to social workers and other professional grades where necessary and appropriate to ensure they have the support of a key worker. All children continue to be overseen by social work management.

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from January 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc.

- **98% (5,634) of children in care at the end of May 2025 had an allocated case worker.**
- Of the 5,634 children allocated, 89% (5,005) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (629) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 127 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, 12 (10%) more than April 2025 (115).
- 9 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further four areas and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- Of the remaining four areas, the highest number of cases awaiting allocation was reported by Dublin South Central (37) followed by Louth/Meath (34), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (22) and Cork (19).

### Breakdown of allocation status by area and role of worker, May 2025. Ranked by % Allocated

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total in Care
Midlands	337	97%	9	3%	346	100%	0	0%	346
Dublin North City	432	92%	39	8%	471	100%	0	0%	471
Dublin North	382	92%	34	8%	416	100%	0	0%	416
Cavan/Monaghan	161	98%	4	2%	165	100%	0	0%	165
Kerry	163	95%	9	5%	172	100%	0	0%	172
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	158	51%	150	49%	308	100%	0	0%	308
Donegal	243	100%	0	0%	243	100%	0	0%	243
Mayo	148	100%	0	0%	148	100%	0	0%	148
Galway/Roscommon	353	99%	5	1%	358	100%	0	0%	358
Midwest	362	73%	132	27%	494	100%	1	0.2%	495
Waterford/Wexford	380	93%	30	7%	410	100%	1	0.2%	411
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	101	87%	15	13%	116	98%	2	2%	118
SCSIP	82	100%	0	0%	82	98%	2	2%	84
Cork	611	97%	20	3%	631	97%	19	3%	650
Dublin South East/Wicklow	170	89%	20	11%	190	95%	9	5%	199
DSW/KWW	314	79%	85	21%	399	95%	22	5%	421
Louth/Meath	356	91%	36	9%	392	92%	34	8%	426
Dublin South Central	252	86%	41	14%	293	89%	37	11%	330
Total	5,005	89%	629	11%	5,634	98%	127	2%	5761

# Children in Care

## Care Plan

- 83% (4,803) of children in care at the end of May 2025 had an up-to-date care plan, no change from April 2025.
- A total of 958 (17%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 35 (4%) fewer than April 2025 (993).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (130; 28%); Dublin South Central (120; 36%), Midwest (105; 21%) and Cork (102; 16%)

Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan– May 2025

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	133	66	199	67%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	362	59	421	86%
Dublin South Central	210	120	330	64%
Midlands	344	2	346	99%
Dublin North City	341	130	471	72%
Dublin North	345	71	416	83%
Louth/Meath	327	99	426	77%
Cavan/Monaghan	149	16	165	90%
Kerry	138	34	172	80%
Cork	548	102	650	84%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	297	11	308	96%
Waterford/Wexford	381	30	411	93%
Donegal	234	9	243	96%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	103	15	118	87%
Mayo	120	28	148	81%
Galway/Roscommon	310	48	358	87%
Midwest	390	105	495	79%
SCSIP	71	13	84	85%
Total	4,803	958	5,761	83%

# Child Protection Notification System

- **1,033 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of May 2025, 12 (1%) fewer than April 2025 (1,045), second consecutive decrease.
- There were 7 (<1%) more children ‘active’ at the end of May 2025 than at the end May 2024 (1,026).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 98% (1,012) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 21 children were awaiting allocation across three areas of which 10 were subsequently allocated.

- Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of May 2025, reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (143), Dublin North City (113), Cork (111) and Midlands (92).

- Fewest numbers reported by Cavan/Monaghan (22) and Kerry (23).

- The number of children ‘active’ equates to 8 children per 10,000 under 18 years.

- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (23.1), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (14.0) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (13.1).

- Lowest rates reported by Louth/Meath (3.9), Waterford/Wexford (4.3) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (4.5).

- 6 of the 17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of May 2025 than at the end of April 2025. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 11), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 11) and Kerry (up 9).

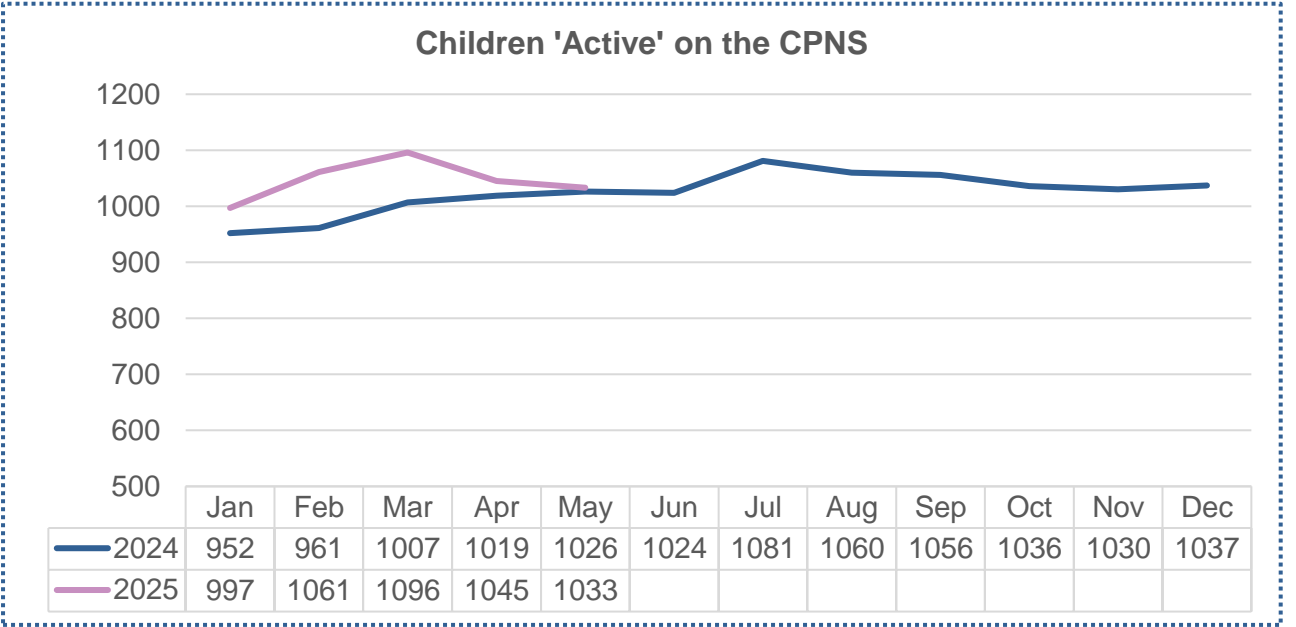
- 10 of the 17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decreases reported by Midlands (down 16), Louth/Meath (down 13), Dublin South Central (down 10) and Dublin North City (down 10).

- The remining area (Mayo) reported no change.

- 10 of the 17 areas had more children active at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024. Largest increases reported by Galway/Roscommon (up 35), Midlands (up 26) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 22).

- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 65), Louth/Meath (down 26) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 25).

- The remaining area (Cavan/Monaghan) reported no change.



Number and rate of children ‘active’ on the CPNS, by area (ranked by rate)

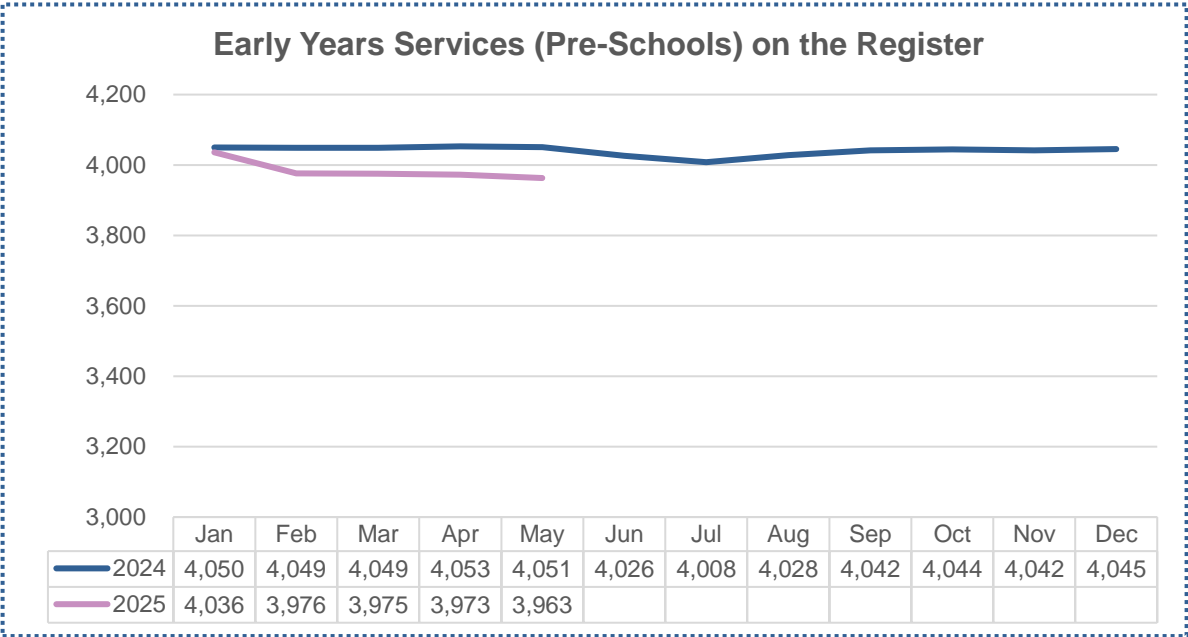
Area	May-24	Apr-25	May-25	May-25 v May-24	May-25 v Apr-25	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	106	123	113	7	-10	48,909	23.1
SLWC	13	23	34	21	11	24,312	14.0
DSW/K/WW	121	132	143	22	11	108,927	13.1
Midlands	66	108	92	26	-16	80,962	11.4
Galway / Roscommon	46	82	81	35	-1	81,799	9.9
Mayo	16	28	28	12	0	31,911	8.8
Dublin South Central	58	70	60	2	-10	70,259	8.5
Cork	107	114	111	4	-3	136,786	8.1
Donegal	47	36	34	-13	-2	42,144	8.1
Midwest	135	71	70	-65	-1	96,764	7.2
Dublin North	80	65	72	-8	7	104,281	6.9
CW/K/ST	66	43	41	-25	-2	62,366	6.6
Kerry	20	14	23	3	9	34,994	6.6
Cavan / Monaghan	22	16	22	0	6	37,336	5.9
DSE/WW	20	35	41	21	6	91,047	4.5
Waterford / Wexford	39	34	30	-9	-4	69,239	4.3
Louth / Meath	64	51	38	-26	-13	96,531	3.9
Total	1,026	1,045	1,033	7	-12	1,218,567	8.5

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

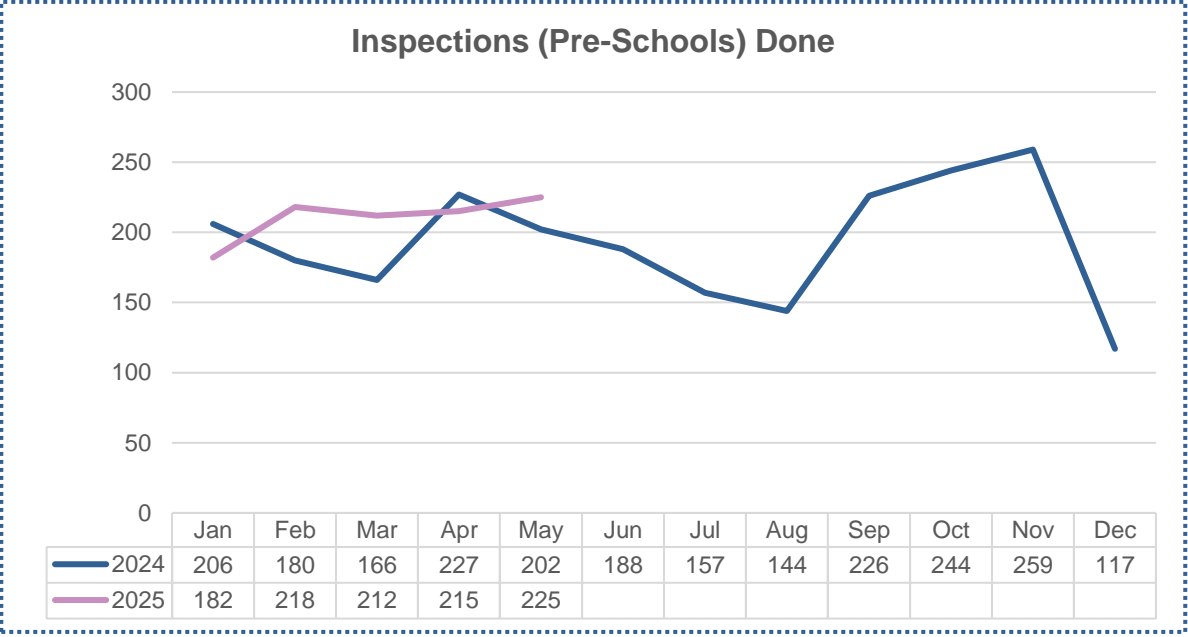
# Children’s Services Regulation

## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,963 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of May 2025**, 10 fewer than April 2025 (3,973 revised figure) and 88 (2%) fewer than May 2024 (4,051). *The reduction between January and February 2025 is partly explained by the transfer of a number of registered childminders from the Pre-School Register to the new Childminder Register of Services.*

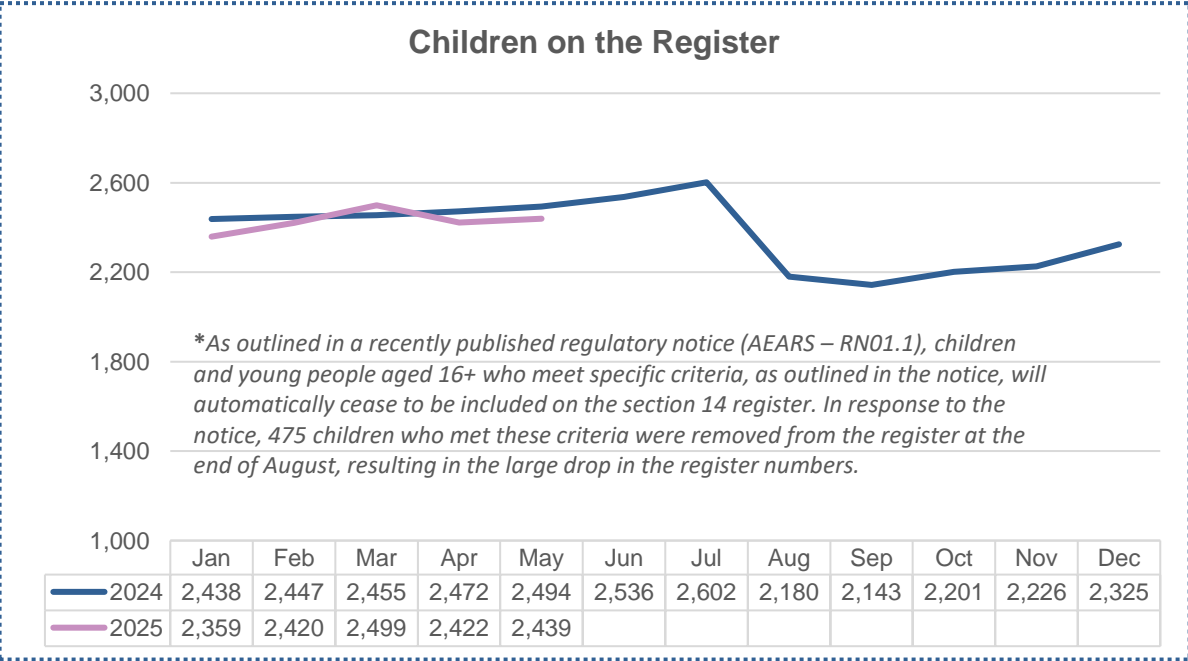


- **225 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in May 2025.
- This brings to 1,052 the number of inspections for the first five months of 2025, 71 (7%) more than the same period in 2024 (981).

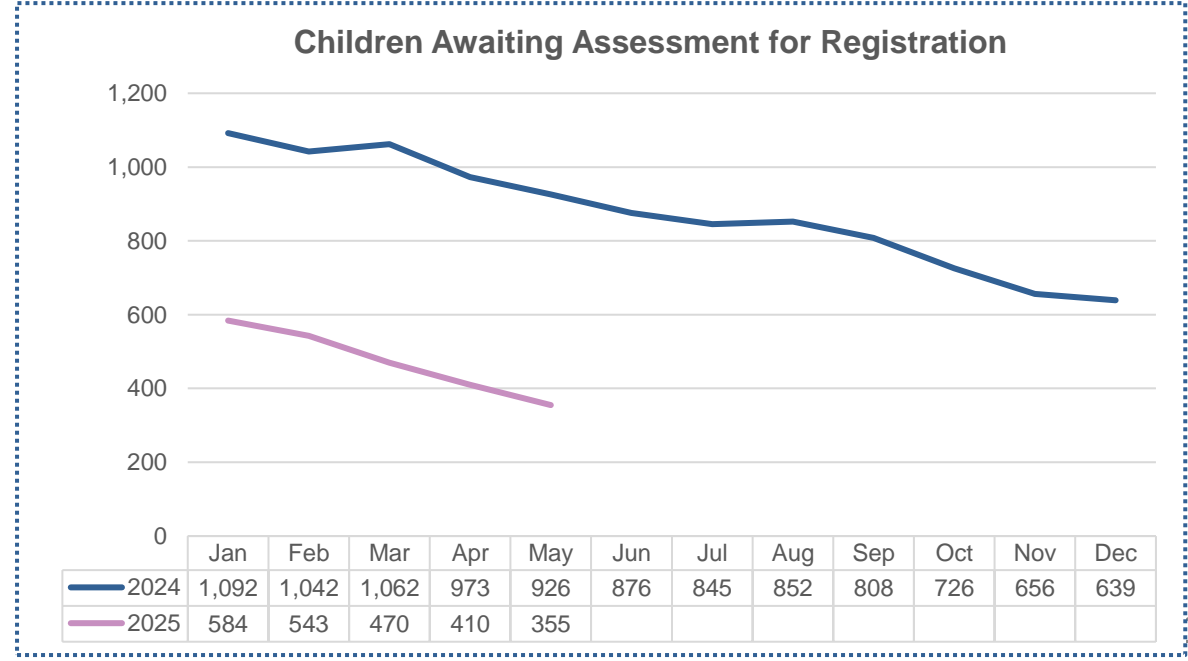


## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,439 children on the register** for home education at the end of May 2025, 17 (<1%) more than April 2025 (2,422) and 114 (5%) more than Dec 2024 (2,325). Increasing trend continues.



- **355 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of May 2025**, 55 (13%) fewer than April 2025 (410) and 571 (62%) fewer than May 2024 (926). Decreasing trend continues.



# Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,452 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in May 2025. This brings to 8,659 the number of referrals for the first nine months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 1,212 (16%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (7,447).

- **4,884 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of May 2025, six fewer than April 2025 (4,890).
- 1,076 (28%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of May 2025 than at the end of May 2024 (3,808).

- **533 new individual children worked** with in May 2025. This brings to 3,619 the number of new individual children worked with in the first nine months of the academic year 2024-2025, some 207 (6%) more than the previous academic year (3,412).

